Committee which is entrusted with the proper maintenance/upkeep/repair of the existing building of the Indian Museum. Moreover, the two existing buildings of the Indian Museum, Calcutta are quite aged, porticoed, plastered and dome-type in elegant structure, and, therefore, the superstructure of the building is not conductive for Central air conditioning. None-the-less, special care has been taken to install split type/window type air conditioning facilities for proper conservation and preservation of the highly sensitive objects.

(e) The National Museum building is a new one and is centrally air conditioned for the proper care and maintenance of the museum holdings. Besides, the National Museum Conservation Laboratory is regularly monitoring the control of temparature and humidity for the same purpose.

Seminar on Roads

2287. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a national seminar on "natural disasters reduction on roads" was held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of countries participated in the Seminar;

(d) the suggestions made by the experts;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement the suggestions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Seminar was held from January 29-31, 1997 and was organised by Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi on behalf of World Road Congress (PIARC), G-2 Group and in association with Ministry of Surface Transport. The Seminar provided an opportunity to the Asian Experts to present and exchange information as well as practices being followed in their respective countries dealing with evaluation and prediction of hazards; laws and regulations; pre-event measures; disaster preparedness; emergency planning and management; repairing of infrastructure; post-event measures.

(c) The Seminar was attended by over 150 distinguished delegates including 33 foreign delegates from 15 countries, including Hon'ble Deto Seri S. Samy Vellu, Minister of Works, Malaysia.

(d) The major recommendations of the experts included the following :

(1) Development of National Commission on Natural Disaster Mitigation in various countries.

(2) Strengthening of Regional Co-operation in the area of Natural Hazard Mitigation.

(3) Creation of National Data base on Natural Disasters related to Roads and to prepare suitable guidelines to mitigate these disasters in future as well as sharing of data on regionals basis.

(4) Strengthening of Research and Development Activities to enhance the ability of prediction as well as forecast about the occurences of natural hazards.

(5) Complete information dissemination and public awareness programmes.

(6) Budgetary provisions to meet the emergencies arising due to natural disasters related to roads.

(e) and (f) The recommendations by the experts are general in nature. As and when specific proposals are received these will be duly considered.

Irrigation Projects in Gujarat and Maharashtra

2288. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether irrigation facilities in Gujarat and Maharashtra are insufficient;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken to solve the problem;

(c) the details of the major and medium irrigation projects in Maharashtra and Gujarat which have so far been completed and those which are still incomplete alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Against Ultimate Irrigation Potential assessed for Gujarat and Maharashtra of 4.75 million hectares and 7.30 million hectares respectively, the irrigation potential likely to have been created in these States by the end of 1995-96 is 3.34 million hectares and 4.83 million hectares respectively. The major reasons for the gap between ultimate irrigation potential and irrigation potential created so far, is thin spreading of funds on irrigation projects and consequential delay in completing ongoing irrigation projects. The steps taken by the Government to increase irrigation facilities inter-alia include emphasis on (i) early completion of ongoing projects, (ii) greater users' participation in irrigation projects, (iii) making command

area development programme more effective, (iv) conjunctive use of surface and ground water and (v) S&T component through research organisations.

(c) and (d) During Plan period upto the end of 1991-92, 10 major, 88 medium and 1 Extension, Renovation & Modernisation (ERM) projects of Gujarat and 18 major, 153 medium and 1 ERM projects of Maharashtra were completed. During the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97), 9 major, 25 medium and 12 ERM projects of Gujarat and 32 major, 70 medium and 6 ERM projects of Maharashtra are in progress. To expedite completion of selected ongoing major and medium projects. Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 101.72 crores and Rs. 28.00 crores have been sanctioned to Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97.

Membership of UN Security Council

2289. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of permanent and non-permanent members of Security Council and other countries which have so far indicated their support for India's claim for permanent membership of UN Security Council;

(b) the steps which have been taken and are being taken for securing permanent membership of UN Security Council; and

(c) the present status of the proposals in respect of membership of Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC), particularly its expansion?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Discussions on restructuring of the UN Security Council are continuing in the Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. So far there is no consensus on individual candidates or criteria for expansion. Mauritius, Bhutan, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Lao PDR have made statements at the UN in support of India's candidature for permanent membership. The Government is in touch with other Member States of the UN both bilaterally and at the UN. We have indicated that any proposal to expand the UN Security Council should be comprehensive in nature, and non-discriminatory.

(c) India is presently a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The membership of the Economic and Social Council was last increased in 1973 to the present 54 members. No new specific proposals for further expansion of the ECOSOC is currently being discussed in the UN or in the Open Ended Working Groups.

[Translation]

Anganwadi Workers

2290. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from organisations of Anganwadi workers, particularly from Madhya Pradesh, regarding improvement in their working conditions, revision of rates of honorarium, declaring them as Government employees and other issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of representations have been received from various organisations of anganwadi workers including from Madhya Pradesh regarding the status and employments of anganwadi workers. These representations contain a request to the Government to consider following major demands :

(i) enhancement of honorarium of anganwadi workers/helpers and regularisation of their services in the regular pay-scales;

(ii) declaring anganwadi workers as Government servants and providing them allowances as applicable to Government servants; and

(iii) promotion of anganwadi workers to supervisors.

(c) The representations received from various Anganwadi Associations have been examined by the Government and it has been decided to maintain the status-quo.

Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College

2291. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to upgrade the Guwahati Medical College in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the anticipated investment and time schedule;

(c) whether the total cost of the project is proposed to be provided by the Union Government as grant to the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the proposed upgradation is to be implemented by and under the supervision and control of the Union Government or it would be left to the State Government?